

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**Reef Heron at Pelican Point, Swan River.**—The Reef Heron (*Egretta sacra*) is essentially an inhabitant of the rocky coast and reefs and there appears no recorded observation of the bird from an inland locality: Hence it was with surprise that I observed a bird at Pelican Point on April 3, 1965, at approximately 1100 hours; a distance of some 5 miles up the Swan River.

It was a grey phased bird and the uniform grey plumage and the brownish beak readily distinguished it from the only other similar looking bird, the White-faced Heron (*Ardea novae-hollandiae*), which sometimes frequents Pelican Point also.

As a search for the bird an hour later was unsuccessful it is assumed that the bird was not resident but just passing through.

—R. H. STRANGER, Wembley.

**Quokka at Yanchep in Historic Time.**—A complete skeleton of a Quokka (*Setonix brachyurus*) was found in a cave at Yanchep in May 1965 by two members of the Speleological Group of the W.A. Naturalists' Club, Messrs. R. Gilchrist and G. Muir. This specimen was presented to the W.A. Museum, and registered as 65.5.2. The skull contains a small iron rod or spike penetrating the right anterior palatal vacuity. The neighbouring second and third upper incisors, alone of all the teeth, show signs of damage, no doubt related to the presence of the iron spike. This damage suggests that the iron spike was implanted during the animal's life-time, so that the animal must post-date European occupation of the Yanchep district. The remains of this animal constitute material evidence of persistence of Quokka populations near the Perth metropolitan region up to very recent times.

—D. MERRILEES, W.A. Museum, Perth.

**The Calls of the White-breasted Robin.**—In 1962 I noted the following unrecorded calls of the White-breasted Robin (*Eopsaltria georgiana*) whilst they were in captivity in my aviaries. The two birds were of unknown sex.

1. Often calls "Twick twick."
2. When defending its territory it emits an angry "Zick-ker-r-r."
3. At dusk it becomes very active and calls "Z-ick" very loudly.
4. In early morning, and during the night whilst night-flying, it calls "Che-op." This is a liquid call and ending abruptly like a whip crack. Sometimes this call is varied to "E-che-op" and the first E is soft and drawn out like a dog whining. All the "e's" in these renditions are long.

5. On several occasions I observed the birds sitting quietly and warbling. To me it sounded as if the birds were mimicking a nearby canary.

—A. Y. PEPPER, Scarborough.